

XXXIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 541.]

79. *Amundsen's North-West Passage.*

[The North-West Passage, being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration of the Ship 'Gjøa,' 1903-1907. By Roald Amundsen. Two vols. London: Constable & Co., 1908.]

The narrative of Capt. Amundsen's successful accomplishment of the North-West Passage, and of his long sojourn at the North Magnetic Pole will be read with great pleasure by all interested in Arctic Exploration. Although there is no chapter in it specially treating of the avifauna, there are frequent references to birds in its pages, and we observe that "Swan Lake" and "Snow-Sparrow Hill" are among the names given to new places in King-William Land. The first messenger of spring in this high northern spot was a Raven, which arrived on April 4th. Ptarmigan seem to have been plentiful in summer in many places, and to have been much used for food, but the main supply of fresh meat was furnished by Reindeer and Hares.

We have applied to Prof. Collett for information concerning the birds collected during this expedition. He kindly tells us that the skins have reached Christiania in rather a bad state, but have been placed in the hands of a taxidermist to be cleaned and put into order. He will no doubt give us a good account of them later. They were all collected by the steward Lindström, to whom the investigations in Natural History were assigned.

We may add that a good general account of Capt. Amundsen's adventurous expedition will be found in an article by Mr. Alfred Smythe, F.R.G.S., published in the 'Nineteenth Century' for February 1908, and entitled "The Real Hero of the North-West Passage."

80. '*Annals of Scottish Natural History.*'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. A Quarterly Magazine with which is incorporated 'The Scottish Naturalist.' April and July 1908.]

We usually expect to find some very important articles in

the Scottish 'Annals,' and are not disappointed in these numbers, for Mr. Eagle Clarke writes his third report on the birds of Fair Isle (which includes the observations made in 1907), and Mr. Paterson follows with his "Report on Scottish Ornithology for 1907." In the latter the most striking facts are naturally those furnished by Mr. Clarke, and these may be summarized as follows:—117 species in all were noticed in Fair Isle, 77 in spring and 111 in autumn, the latter including 71 also observed in spring. 17 species were new to the fauna of the island, the rarest being the Siberian Chiffchaff (several examples), the Black-headed Bunting (1), the Black-throated Wheatear (1), and the Short-toed Lark (1). Next in importance were the Grasshopper-Warbler, the Grey-headed Wagtail, the Wood-Warbler, and the Black Redstart. But, though many rare birds visited the island, many (such as the Goldercrest) that were common in other years failed to appear. It is not, however, only for records of rare species that Mr. Clarke's work is so valuable, especially as these may be chance visitors; the importance of his constant visits to this isolated spot and the subsequent reports on the rich harvest secured during migration lies in the fact that we can thereby judge more fairly of the status of our occasional visitors, and determine with more confidence how far their visits are regular, how far fortuitous. The present report is especially helpful to this end, and Fair Isle has proved a particularly fortunate choice of station and a favoured resting-place of migrants.

Turning to Scotland in general, Mr. Harvie-Brown furnishes us with another of his admirable sketches of distribution, the subject on this occasion being the Woodcock, and the area Central "Forth"; Mr. Service writes of the Bar-tailed Godwit in Solway (where a flock of 200 individuals remained during the whole summer), and Mr. Laidlaw on the food of the Black-headed Gull.

An appeal is printed, from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, with regard to the preservation of rare species; and in the general notes we observe that the Siberian Chiffchaff and the Wood-Warbler have occurred in

Orkney as well as Shetland, and that a Black Tern was seen on May 30th at Peebles, besides other interesting matter.

81. *Arrigoni degli Oddi on the Birds in the Collection of the Marchesa M. Paulucci.*

[Note ornitologiche sulla collezione del Monte appartenente alla Signora Marchesa M. Paulucci. Att. Ist. Veneto di Scienz. lxvi. parte seconda.]

Count Arrigoni gives a description of the rich collection of beautifully mounted Italian birds in the Villa del Monte, near Certhaldo in Tuscany, belonging to the Marchesa M. Paulucci. It contains 1140 examples of 336 species, concerning which many interesting notes are given. Among the rarities are *Falco barbarus* (from Sardinia), *Coccyzus glandarius* (from Tuscany), *Luscinola melanopogon* (from Padua), a hybrid between *Fringilla cælebs* and *F. montifringilla*, *Fratercula arctica*, and many others.

82. '*Avicultural Magazine.*'

[Avicultural Magazine. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. vi. Nos. 6-10 (April-August 1903).]

This magazine once more furnishes us with a goodly number of interesting articles. Capt. Flower sends from the Zoological Gardens of Giza a paper on *Balaniceps rex*, in which he discusses the history and affinities, appearance and habits of that remarkable bird. There are three specimens of it at Giza, and though they have not yet bred in captivity there, Capt. Flower is able to give us much valuable information from his own personal observations.

The coloured plates are of *Phonipara lepida*, *Rallus abbotti*, and *Pholidauges leucogaster*, which are accompanied by accounts of the birds and their allies by Mr. Phillipps, Mr. Meade-Waldo, and Dr. Hopkinson respectively, while Dr. Butler has also a few words to say on the last-named species. Mr. Meade-Waldo and Dr. Hopkinson have had the unusual advantage of studying the birds in their native haunts. Uncoloured plates are, moreover, provided of

Rollulus roulboul and *Grus antigone*, with letterpress by Mr. Astley and Mr. Smith.

Mr. Gordon Dalglish describes the methods by which birds utilized for purposes of fashion are captured in India, Dr. Butler writes of "the mind of a bird," Mr. Stead of the trapping of the Kea (*Nestor notabilis*) and the discovery of the nest, and Mr. Seth-Smith of his visit to Australia on behalf of the Zoological Society of London, while Miss Alderson gives further notes on the denizens of her aviaries in general. Minor articles by different authors are also to be found.

83. *Balducci on the Sterna of Italian Birds.*

[Morfologia dello Sterno degli Uccelli con ricerche originali. Dr. Enrico Balducci. Prato, 1908.]

The sternum is certainly one of the most characteristic and easily studied parts of the bird's osseous structure, although it should not be taken alone, and a good monograph on the sternum of birds would be a valuable aid to their classification. But our author confines himself, unfortunately, to Italian birds and his conclusions are therefore of little use to the systematist. After 32 pages of text we find some 50 pages of exact measurements of a large number of sterna which have been examined. This is followed by 28 plates, which contain 248 outline figures, front and side views, of the sterna of birds. These figures would have been much more useful if names as well as numbers had been attached to them. The author follows the arrangement and numbering of Giglioli's 'Avifauna Italica.'

84. *Bangs and Peck on Birds from British Honduras.*

[On some rare and new Birds from British Honduras. By Outram Bangs and Morton E. Peck. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. xxi. p. 43 (1908).]

Four birds are described as new in this paper—*Limnopardus maculatus insolitus*, *Antrostomus badius*, *Troglodytes irrequies*, and *Coturniculus savannarum cracens*. Notes are given upon others as "rare or worthy of special notice."

Mr. Peck will shortly publish a complete list of the birds of British Honduras.

85. *Beebe on the Seasonal Changes of Colour in Birds.*

[Preliminary Report on an Investigation of the Seasonal Changes of Colour in Birds. By C. W. Beebe. Amer. Nat. xlii. p. 34 (1908).]

Mr. Beebe at the Zoological Park, New York, is making a series of experiments on the cause of certain birds assuming a special plumage during the breeding-season and then moulting into a winter dress. He finds that by confining such birds in small cages, while gradually cutting off the supply of light and increasing the amount of food, he is able to make them "skip" the winter plumage altogether, and, when they moult, to pass from one nuptial plumage to another nuptial plumage without ever putting on the dull dress of the winter season. He thinks that it is thus proven that "the sequence of plumage in these birds is not in any way predestined through inheritance bringing about an unchangeable succession," but that it may be "interrupted by certain external factors." Mr. Beebe has discovered an interesting fact, but we are not sure that the conclusion drawn from it is correct.

86. *Berlepsch on the Birds of Cayenne.*

[On the Birds of Cayenne. By Hans, Graf v. Berlepsch. Nov. Zool. xv. p. 103 (1908).]

No one in these days understands South-American birds better than Graf v. Berlepsch, and Dr. Hartert has done well to place the series of skins gathered together by the experienced American collector, Mr. George K. Cherrie, during a four-months' visit to Cayenne, in the Count's hands. The thirteen hundred well-prepared specimens obtained on this occasion have been carefully studied, while those recorded by former authorities have been added to the List. The result is a nearly complete account of this attractive Avifauna, which Mr. Cherrie pronounces to be "very rich both in species and individuals." The first portion of the article which is now before us enumerates 280 species, and gives the necessary particulars about each of them. The

following new subspecies are characterized:—*Oryzoborus angolensis brevirostris*, *Empidochanes fuscatus fumosus*, and *Formicivora consobrina microsticta*. The Formicariidæ of Cayenne are very numerous. No less than 55 species are catalogued, and 6 others are stated as being “likely to occur there.”

87. *The Budgett Memorial Volume.*

[The Work of John Samuel Budgett, Balfour Student of the University of Cambridge, being a Collection of his Zoological Papers together with a Biographical Sketch by A. E. Shipley, F.R.S., and Contributions by Richard Assheton, Edward J. Bles, Edward T. Browne, J. Herbert Budgett, and J. Graham Kerr. Edited by J. Graham Kerr. Cambridge. 1 vol., 4to. 1907.]

No better memorial could have been devised of our much-lamented friend, the late John Samuel Budgett, and the excellent work that he did in his short lifetime, than the collection of zoological papers contained in the handsome volume now before us. It has been carefully edited by Prof. Graham Kerr, with additions furnished by him and other friends from the materials left unfinished at Budgett's death. Although Budgett did not profess to be an ornithologist, he was a careful observer of bird-life, as will be seen from some passages in Mr. Shipley's biographical sketch which heads the volume. His studies were mainly devoted to other Classes of Vertebrates, but he wrote a careful and instructive paper on the “Birds of the Gambia River,” which was published in this Journal in 1901 (pp. 481–497), and is reprinted in the Memorial Volume.

88. *Carriker on Birds from Costa Rica.*

[Brief Descriptions of some new Species of Birds from Costa Rica, and a Record of some Species not hitherto recorded from that Country. By M. A. Carriker, Jr. Ann. Carn. Mus. iv. Nos. 3 & 4 (1906).]

Mr. Carriker describes *Formicarius castaneiceps* and *Sporophila crissalis* as new species based on specimens collected by himself in Costa Rica and now in the Carnegie Museum. Seven species are, moreover, recorded as additions to the Costa-Rican Avifauna.

89. 'The Emu.'

[The Emu. A Quaterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Vol. vii. pt. 4, and vol. viii. pt. 1 (April, July, 1908).]

The most important paper in these two parts seems to be that by Mr. H. C. Oberholser entitled "A Synopsis of the Genera and Species of Cygningæ," in which the forms are discussed, and their "type localities," characteristics, and geographical distribution are given, with a key to the genera and species. These genera, according to the writer, are *Paleocygnus*, with one species, *P. falconeri* (extinct); *Olor*, with species or subspecies *O. buccinator*, *O. columbianus*, *O. bewicki bewicki*, *O. bewicki minor*, and *O. cygnus* (*Clangocygnus* is used as a new subgenus for *O. buccinator*, the remaining species being included in a subgenus *Olor*); *Cygnus*, with species *C. olor* and *C. melanocoryphus*; *Chenopsis*, with species *Chenopsis atrata*, *C. summerensis* (extinct), and *C. nanus* (extinct); *Archæocygnus*, with one species *A. lacustris* (extinct).

Mr. E. M. Cornwall gives an account of the birds found breeding near Mackay, N. Queensland, in 1907 and 1908, which includes important notes on the nests and eggs; Mr. T. P. Austin follows with the details of his voyage from Pioneer River to various islands and the Great Barrier Reef; and to the southward Mr. S. W. Jackson writes of a trip to the upper Hunter River district of New South Wales, where Gould collected in 1839-1840, while Mr. W. T. Armstrong describes his visit to the Furneaux Group of islands in Bass Strait. The latter's report on the decrease of *Cereopsis novæ-hollandiæ* is impugned subsequently by Messrs. Smith and Maclaine (see vol. viii. p. 48).

Besides these, there are papers by Mr. E. J. Banfield on *Chibia bracteata*, Mr. C. F. Cole on Finches as foster-parents to Cuckoos, Mr. H. W. Ford on Birds from Mareng in the Bendigo district, and Miss J. A. Fletcher on those of the Wilmot district in Tasmania. Minor articles and the usual supplements help to make up the whole, but we must not omit to mention among the uncoloured plates one of the first nest of *Ptilorhis paradisea* found with a full clutch of two eggs, and

another of the nest and a single egg of *Paradisea raggiana*, as well as a coloured plate of *Oreoscoptes gutturalis*. Lastly, we must notice Mr. A. H. Mattingley's defence of Cormorants accused of causing a decrease in the supply of fish, and Mr. A. J. Campbell's description of a new Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus mallee*).

In 'Stray Feathers' *Ninox connivens* is stated to be partly diurnal and to take its prey by day. In the section "From Magazines," attention is drawn to a new form of *Chalcophaps* (*C. occidentalis*) recorded in the 'Victorian Naturalist,' xxiv. p. 135.

90. *Flower on Zoological Gardens.*

[Notes on Zoological Gardens visited in Europe, 1897. By Stanley S. Flower. Cairo, 1908. 8vo. 72 pp.]

Capt. Stanley S. Flower, as on a former occasion, devoted his summer in Europe in 1907 to visiting the Zoological Gardens and Museums of England and the Continent. The information thus acquired, and contained in the present Report, relates mostly to Mammals. But Birds, although perhaps not so prominent in some Gardens and less attractive to the multitude, also occupied his attention, and there is much to be learnt from his observations on this class of animals.

"Harz-Canaries" are well known, but the extent of the trade in these favourite songsters can hardly be believed. A single dealer at Alfeld on the Leine claims that 100,000 cock Canaries have passed through his hands in one year.

Among the many rare birds in the Amsterdam Gardens were seen examples of the Gold-crested Mynah (*Ampeliceps coronata*), the Surinam Ani (*Crotophaga ani*), and the Harpy Eagle (*Thrasaetus harpyia*). The Stork-paddocks are always well tenanted at Amsterdam, and comprise at present two specimens of the rare *Ciconia boyciana*, and a veteran Adjutant which has been over thirty years in the Gardens. At Antwerp, in the Gardens of the Société Royale de Zoologie, the new large "Flying Aviary" attracted Capt. Flower's special attention, and the series of birds is "one of

the largest in the world." But Capt. Flower lavishes still greater praise on the energetic Director of the Zoological Garden at Berlin, where the series of birds is "magnificent," especially of Passerines, Picarians, and Parrots. Such rarities as *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea* and *Didunculus strigirostris* shew that other groups are not neglected. Besides many other public gardens, Capt. Flower also visited the "beautiful country-seat" of Heer F. E. Blaauw at Gooilust in Holland, celebrated for its series of Water-fowl, and the park at Woburn, where the President of the Zoological Society of London keeps his unrivalled private Menagerie. Nor did he neglect Aquariums and Museums, about which much information may be obtained from this instructive report, which does credit alike to the author's industry and to his unfailing powers of observation.

91. *Gadow and Gardiner on Birds from the Coral-Islands of the Indian Ocean.*

[The Percy Sladen Trust Expedition to the Indian Ocean in 1905, under the leadership of Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner.—No. VIII. Aves, with some Notes on the Distribution of the Land-birds of the Seychelles. By H. Gadow, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., and J. Stanley Gardiner, M.A., F.L.S. Trans. Linn. Soc., 2nd ser. Zool. vol. xii. pt. 1.]

The series of reports on the rich collections made by the Percy Sladen Trust Expedition in the Indian Ocean and on its islands, now being published by the Linnean Society, comprises a memoir on the birds collected and observed, which was read at the meeting of the Linnean Society on February 21st, 1907. The list is rather disappointing, as we look for new discoveries on some of the little-known islands in the Indian Ocean visited by the expedition, but find none! The "systematic list" contains the names of 37 species, but "none of them are peculiar to the islands." Most of them are marine birds, stray waders, or species introduced by mankind, such as *Foudia madagascariensis*, *Gracula religiosa*, and *Francolinus pondicerianus*.

No attempt was made to collect birds in Mauritius or the Seychelles. This was perhaps quite as well, as we learn that

of the indigenous forms found there more than half are now extinct "owing to the exertions of paid collectors"!

A useful list, originally prepared by Dr. Gadow for the International Congress of Ornithologists at Cambridge in 1905, illustrates the features of the avifauna of the Seychelles and the Mascarene Islands, and shews the representative species of land-birds in each island. The most noteworthy genera are *Zosterops*, *Hypsipetes*, *Coracopsis*, *Erythrænas*, and *Turtur*. All of these are well represented by different species in the Mascarene Ornis, in which African and Indian influences seem to be nearly balanced.

A large Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) is said to have been found breeding in the "cocoanut and other large trees" of the eastern island of the St. Joseph Atoll in the Amirante group. This is a curious observation, but we would ask whether specimens were obtained and whether it is certain that they are *Pelecanus crispus*?

92. Goeldi on the Names of two South-American Birds.

[*Galbalcyrhynchus purusianus* e *Pipra celesti-pileata*, una questão de prioridade pouco a meu gosto. Pelo Prof. Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi, Director do Museu do Pará. Bol. Mus. Goeldi (Museu Paraense), vol. v. p. 77.]

This is Dr. Goeldi's view in a question of priority as regards the proper names of two South-American birds, given as above written by Dr. Goeldi, but called in the one case *Galbalcyrhynchus leucotis innotatus* by Dr. v. Ihering and in the other *Pipra exquisita* by Hellmayr*. Who shall decide when Doctors disagree"?

93. Goeldi on a new Genus of Trogons.

[*Microtrogon*, novo nome generico proposto para *Trogon ramonianus* Des Murs. Pelo Prof. Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi. Bol. Mus. Goeldi (Museu Paraense), vol. v. p. 92.]

The new generic name *Microtrogon* is proposed for *Trogon ramonianus* (see Grant, Cat. B. xvii. p. 464) on account of its small size and the shape of the bill viewed in a transverse section, of which an illustration is given.

* See 'Ibis,' 1906, p. 35, pl. i.

94. *Hellmayr on Ornithology in 1904.*

[Archiv für Naturgeschichte. Siebzigster Jahr. ii. Band, i. Heft. Aves für 1904. Von C. E. Hellmayr. Berlin, 1908.]

The Reports on the progress of the various branches of Zoology which form the second volume of each year's issue of the well-known 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte,' founded by Wiegmann some seventy years ago, have fallen much into arrear of late years, but the present Editor, Dr. Weltner, seems to be determined to bring them up to date. As regards the "Aves," with which section we are specially concerned, he could hardly have made a better selection than Herr Hellmayr, who is the author of the Report for 1904, as he was of that for 1903. At the same time we must call attention to the fact that the German Zoological Record is still several years behind the British Record, of which we noticed the issue for 1906 in our last number*.

Mr. Hellmayr's report for 1904 seems to be exhaustive and accurate. It has called our attention to several papers which we had overlooked. His short abstracts are very useful. But we wish that he had commenced with a *complete* list of titles, as is done in our Record. We hope soon to receive similar records for 1905 and 1906.

95. *Hellmayr on the Birds of Goyaz, Brazil.*

[An Account of the Birds collected by Mons. G. A. Baer in the State of Goyaz, Brazil. By C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. xv. p. 13 (1908).]

The remote Brazilian State of Goyaz, which lies between Minas and Matto Grosso, has not been often visited by the zoologist. It was first explored by Geoffroy St.-Hilaire, and was afterwards traversed by the famous collector Natterer, on his way to Matto Grosso. Castelnau and Deville and Professor Bohn made collections in Goyaz, but in neither case were they properly worked out. Monsieur Baer, who has given an account of his journey in the 'Bulletin du Musée d'Histoire Naturelle' (xiii. p. 28, 1907), collected during his sojourn in Goyaz upwards of 800 bird-skins,

* See "Sharpe on the Ornithological Literature of 1906", above p. 539.

which Mr. Rothschild judiciously placed in Mr. Hellmayr's hands. These specimens are now referred to 280 species and subspecies, and are described in the present memoir by Mr. Hellmayr in his usual exact and careful manner.

The most important result is the discovery of an Amazonian element in the avifauna of the Rio Araguaya, which flows into the Trocantins. On the other hand, the Fauna of Southern Goyaz closely resembles that of South-eastern Brazil.

Mr. Hellmayr enumerates every specimen in the collection and gives the precise date and locality, together with many excellent notes. The following subspecies are described as new to science:—*Thryothorus genibarbis intercedens*, *Myrmelastes luctuosus araguaya*, *Nannochordeiles pusillus septentrionalis*, *Celeus flavescens intercedens*, *Bucco maculatus parvirostris*, and *Columba plumbea baeri*.

It is sad that such an excellent author as Mr. Hellmayr should disfigure his good work by following the practices of of the "new school" and disregarding the rules of grammar and common-sense.

96. 'Irish Naturalist.'

[The Irish Naturalist. A Monthly Journal of General Irish Natural History. Vol. xvi. (January to December 1907). Eason & Sons, Dublin.]

The most notable incident recorded during the year 1907 by our contemporary is the occurrence at Galley Head, Co. Cork, of an example of the Canadian Crane (*Grus canadensis*).

It was shot on September 14th, 1905, and was in poor condition, but shewed no signs of having been in captivity. How far these American species are to be admitted to the British List is always a doubtful question, especially in the case of such as are kept in aviaries, but we hope that we shall hear more of this example from the other side of the Irish Channel, and whether any bird-lovers in the vicinity happen to have kept, or rather to have lost, an individual in 1905.

County records are always of interest, and we now have those of the Crossbill breeding in Co. Wicklow and the Tree-Sparrow in Co. Donegal, besides further notes on the Red-throated Diver in the north of Ireland.

Mr. N. H. Foster continues his observations on the weight of birds' eggs (*cf.* vol. xi. p. 237, vol. xii. p. 295), and both the January and February numbers are entirely devoted to a survey of the Natural History of Lambay Island, Co. Dublin, wherein Mr. R. Patterson gives an account of the birds (pp. 23-31). The rarest species now breeding there are the Manx Shearwater and the Black Guillemot, but the Raven, Chough, and Sea-Eagle are reported to have nested there in former days.

97. *Martorelli on Lanius homeyeri in Italy.*

[Il *Lanius homeyeri*, Cabanis, in Italia, nota ornitologica del socio Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. Atti Soc. Ital. Sc. Nat. xlvi. (1908).]

Although several of our leading systematists have lately dealt with *Lanius excubitor* and its nearly allied forms, they have been by no means unanimous in the conclusions arrived at on this difficult subject. Prof. Martorelli, having paid great attention to the question for some years, has come to the conclusion that besides the typical *Lanius excubitor* and *L. borealis* a third closely related form also occurs in Italy not unfrequently, and that this form is the *L. homeyeri* of Cabanis, which is the south-eastern representative of *L. excubitor*. A nicely coloured figure is given of this bird.

98. *Miller on the Manakins of the Genus Chiroxiphia.*

[A Review of the Manakins of the Genus *Chiroxiphia*. By W. De Witt Miller. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. xxiv. p. 331 (1908).]

Mr. Miller reviews the species of the beautiful Pipriine genus *Chiroxiphia*, and recognises eight forms as entitled to specific rank. Of these *C. napensis*, the closely allied representative of *C. pareola* on the Rio Napo, is described as a new species. As no intergradation is known between this form and its allies, "it has seemed best to give it full specific rank." *C. pareola atlantica* of Dalmás, from Tobago, and *C. p. boliviana* of Allen are likewise treated as full species.

We are glad to observe that the author does not recognise the so-called genera *Chiropriion* and *Cercophæna*, but unites them both to *Chiroxiphia*. Good coloured figures are given of *C. boliviana* and *C. napensis*.

99. *Ottosson on rare Birds' Eggs.*

[Some rare Birds' Eggs. Described by Dr. O. Ottosson. With one plate. Communicated by Einar Lönnberg. Arkiv för Zoologi, Band 4, No. 9 (1908).]

This is a paper of considerable importance, as it describes and figures the eggs of *Garrulus lidthi*, *Emberiza yessoensis*, and *Plotus rufus*. The Jay has plain blue eggs and lays them in hollow tree-trunks; the nests were found in Amami-Oshima, an island of the Loo Choo group. The parent birds were obtained at the same time as the eggs. The Bunting was discovered breeding in the Tokio district, an extension of its range from Yesso. The Darter's eggs are from the isolated colony at the lake of Antioch described by the late Canon Tristram: they resemble those of Cormorants in their general appearance, but are spotted with brown and violet.

100. *Report on the Field-Museum, Chicago, 1907.*

[Field Museum of Natural History. Annual Report of the Director to the Board of Trustees for the Year 1907. Chicago, U.S.A., 1908.]

The Report of the Director (Mr. F. J. V. Skiff) to the Trustees on the Field-Museum of Natural History for 1907 gives a favourable account of the progress of that great Institution. The plans for the new building have been carefully prepared, but there are some difficulties about the site. The collecting-expedition sent out to British East Africa in 1905 under the leadership of Mr. C. E. Akeley had returned "with a consignment of 84 packages, weighing upwards of 17 tons," all in perfect condition. The attention of the expedition had been specially devoted to the larger mammals, of which a good series was obtained, but we see 693 bird-skins in the List, on which we shall, no doubt, have a special report in due course.

The next great expedition contemplated is one to Tibet, under the conduct of Dr. Berthold Lauter, who will devote three years to the exploration of the country.

In the list of the scientific staff we observe the names of Mr. Charles B. Cory as Curator in the Department of

Zoology, with Mr. Seth E. Meek as Assistant Curator, and Mr. N. Dearborn as Assistant Curator in the Department of Ornithology. Our old friend Mr. D. G. Elliot, M.B.O.U., has given up his former post in the Museum and is, we believe, gone on a tour round the world.

101. *Rothschild's 'Extinct Birds.'*

[An Attempt to unite in one volume a short account of those Birds which have become Extinct in historical times—that is, within the last six or seven hundred years. To which are added a few which still exist, but are on the verge of extinction. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., F.Z.S. With 45 coloured plates, embracing 63 subjects, and other illustrations. London: Hutchinson & Co., Paternoster Row, E.C., 1907.]

When the International Congress of Ornithologists met at South Kensington in June 1896 a day was specially set apart for an excursion to Tring, where Mr. Walter Rothschild had invited his brother Ornithologists to inspect his Zoological Museum. Birds, as we all know, are one of the leading features of Mr. Rothschild's rich collection, and, amongst birds, those "that have become extinct within historical times," either by the agency of man or from some other unascertained cause, have always claimed a large share of his attention. Mr. Rothschild has been endeavouring to obtain specimens of the birds that come under this category for many years, and has met with a considerable measure of success. On the occasion in question he took the opportunity of collecting these rarities together in one room, where they were slightly reinforced by specimens lent to him for the occasion; and he gave a most interesting lecture upon them, which was listened to by his ornithological brethren with deep attention. The lecture was further illustrated by the exhibition of a series of excellent coloured illustrations of extinct birds prepared by some of the best artists of the day. It is mainly upon these specimens and drawings that, at the request of many of his friends, Mr. Rothschild has written and published the sumptuous volume now before us. It should

be observed, however, that the letterpress has been completely rewritten, a systematic arrangement having been adopted instead of the plan pursued in the original lecture, as published in the volume of the 'Proceedings' of the Fourth International Ornithological Congress.

Mr. Rothschild commences his book with the extinct Passeres, of which he registers some 25 in his letterpress, though these are not all figured. They are mostly insular forms, which are obviously more likely to become extirpated than those of a continent. The Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand, and the Mauritian group supply most of the examples of the Passerine Order, amongst which we may point to *Fregilupus*, *Ciridops*, and *Moho* as being perhaps the most remarkable for form and colour. Then, after the single extinct Goatsucker — the very curious tubular-nostrilled *Siphonorhis* of Jamaica,—come the Parrots, of which no less than 25, now lost to the earth's Avifauna, are known, but have left more or less certain proofs of their former existence. Among the Parrots, again, we find many insular species, and some, such as *Lophopsittacus mauritianus* (only known from an old drawing and a few bones), of a most remarkable character. It appears that a group of large Macaws (*Ara*), all of which have now perished, once inhabited the West India Islands. Mr. Rothschild figures six of them and describes a seventh. Passing over some smaller groups we now come to the extinct Anseres, of which twelve species are described, but only one is figured. This is a remarkable form—the "Labrador Duck" (*Camptolemus labradorius*), allied to the Eiders. It was formerly a regular winter visitant on the Atlantic coast, but has now disappeared altogether without any apparent reason. The Ducks are followed by *Prosobonia leucoptera* and *Æchmorhynchus cancellatus*, two remarkable Waders of the Pacific, of which excellent figures by Mr. Lodge are given. The Rails, owing perhaps to their feeble powers of flight, present numerous recently extinct forms. Mr. Rothschild includes twenty of them in his volume, and figures some of the more remarkable.

“*Leguati gigantea*” is perhaps the most extraordinary picture of the present volume, but it is perhaps a little uncertain whether such a bird ever existed. The figure is made from the descriptions and sketches of the old French voyagers, and Newton always maintained that it was a Flamingo and nothing more. But Schlegel and other good authorities were of a contrary opinion.

The Dodos, the Moas, and the Rocs are all fully treated and abundantly illustrated in Mr. Rothschild’s work, and most of the facts known about these three great groups of Extinct Birds are brought together. The best possible figures of the three Dodos that can be deduced from the present state of our knowledge of them stand side by side. A brave attempt is made to get the Dinornithes and *Æpyornithes* into systematic order, but the complications arising from the different bases of treatment of these birds by rival authorities render this an almost impossible task. We are, however, thankful to the author for the information which he has brought together from all parts on these imperfectly known groups. We must also thank him for the useful list of the literature on Extinct Birds which heads the volume and will be very useful.

It would be ungracious towards an author who has worked so wisely and so well to call attention to certain “slips” in his work, such as the absence of a list of the species recorded in the letterpress of the volume and *not* figured. There is no doubt that Mr. Rothschild must have spent many hours of hard labour in its composition and in the selection of the splendid illustrations, and we thank him heartily for having devoted his time to such a task and brought it to a successful issue.

The following names used in Mr. Rothschild’s work appear to be new:—

Cusnarius lydekkeri, p. x.
Ara erythrura, p. 54.
Necropsittacus borbonicus, p. 62.
Bubo leguati, p. 71.
Strix newtoni, p. 79.
Ardea duboisi, p. 111.

Nesœnas duboisi, p. 166.
Megalapteryx hamiltoni, p. 196.
Emeus boothi, p. 210.
 — *hausti*, p. 210.
 — *parkeri*, p. 211.
Dromœus perroni, p. 236.

102. *Schæck on Fatio's Collection of Birds.*

[Notice sur la collection d'oiseaux léguée par M. Victor Fatio au Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève. Par F. de Schæck. Bull. Soc. Zool. de Genève, i. p. 51 (1907).]

The well-known Swiss naturalist Victor Fatio, whose loss we have lately recorded ('Ibis,' 1906, p. 608), has left his collection of birds and eggs to the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle of Geneva. As this collection contains the specimens described or alluded to in Fatio's works on the Fauna of Switzerland, no more appropriate destination could have been found for it. The specimens number 1215, referable to 557 species, of which about one-third are from Switzerland and another third from other European countries. M. Schæck furnishes us with remarks on 45 of these birds, amongst which are examples of *Larus ichthyaëtus* and *Xema sabinii*, both procured on the Lake of Geneva.

103. *Simon and Hellmayr's Notes on the Nomenclature of certain Trochilidæ.*

[Notes critiques sur quelques Trochilidæ. Par E. Simon et C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. xv. p. 1 (1908).]

This is a series of valuable remarks on the nomenclature of certain Trochilidæ, especially those of which the types, in the Museums of Paris and Vienna, have been carefully examined by the authors. They relate to species of the genera *Agrytria*, *Leucochloris*, *Oreotrochilus*, *Heliangelus*, *Thalurania*, *Hylocharis*, and *Chlorestes*. It is maintained that *Aëronympha prosantis* of Oberholser is a *Heliangelus*, and the same as *H. rothschildi* of Boucard. *Basilinna leucotis pygmæa*, from Nicaragua, is characterized as a new subspecies.

104. *Snethlage on the Birds of the Rio Purus.*

[Sobre una colleccão de Aves do Rio Purús, pela Dra. E. Snethlage, Auxiliar da seccão de Zoologia do Museu. Bol. Mus. Goeldi (Museu Paraense), vol. v. pp. 43-76.]

Madame Snethlage, who is now attached to the staff of the Goeldi Museum at Pará, has prepared a list of the birds

lately obtained by the Collectors of that Museum on the Rio Purús, a large southern branch of the Upper Amazon, hitherto little explored. In all difficult questions she has received the efficient assistance of Graf v. Berlepsch. The list enumerates the names of 193 species and subspecies, and is followed by some useful remarks of Graf v. Berlepsch, who compares it with the list of the birds of the neighbouring Rio Juruá published by Dr. von Ihering in the 'Revista do Museu Paulista' (vi. p. 430) in 1904. The two localities are shown in a map. The following species and subspecies are described as new in Madame Sneath's paper—*Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus berlepschi*, *Myrmelastes goeldii*, *Gymnopathys purusianus*, *Piaya cayana obscura*, and *Columba plumbea pallescens*.

105. *Snodgrass and Heller on the Birds of the Galapagos.*

[Papers from the Hopkins-Stanford Galapagos Expedition.—XVI. Birds. By Robert Evans Snodgrass and Edmund Heller. Proc. Washington Acad. Sc. v. pp. 231-372 (1904).]

We have unfortunately overlooked this paper, but it is one that is well worthy of notice, as being the latest contribution to our knowledge of the remarkable Avifauna of the Galapagos.

The expedition to which it relates was sent out from San Francisco by the department of Zoology of Stanford University in the autumn of 1898, under "the patronage of Mr. Hopkins," in a sealing-schooner, and was absent 304 days. Collections more or less complete were made by Messrs. Snodgrass and Heller in nearly every class of animals and plants. An exact itinerary of the voyage will be found in Mr. Heller's memoir on the Reptiles of the expedition published in the same volume of the Journal above quoted. The collection of birds appears to have been very full and complete. The specimens are referred to 80 species, besides numerous subspecific forms which are not numbered, but are designated by letters (*a*, *b*, *c*, &c.) added to the number of the species. This plan we highly approve of, as it shews that subspecies ought not

to be considered as on a par with species, which some of our friends of the "new school" seem to forget.

The last memoir issued on the Birds of the Galapagos is that of Messrs. Rothschild and Hartert (Nov. Zool. vi. p. 85, 1899), based on the collection of the Webster-Harris Expedition, in which will be found (p. 135) a list of the previously published articles on the subject and a complete discussion of it. The present paper does not materially increase our general knowledge of the Galapagan Avifauna. It adds, however, at least three species to the list (*Larus franklini*, of which a single specimen was obtained, and two new forms, denominated *Geospiza heliobates* and *Nesomimus melanotis dierythrus*), and contains an exact and methodical account of the specimens obtained by the Expedition, with a full commentary on them. No change is suggested in the general situation, and it remains as certain as ever that (as shown by Darwin, Wallace, and other leading authorities) the Galapagos afford us an excellent example of a group of Oceanic Islands peopled by accidental migration.

XXXIV.—Letters, Extracts, and Notes.

THE following letters, addressed to the Editors, have been received:—

SIRS,—The following legend is not without a poetical strain, and will interest, I am sure, not only ornithologists, but other lovers of nature. It was communicated (in the Dutch language) by Mr. J. A. Kroesen to the Proceedings ("Notulen") of the Batavian Society of Arts and Sciences for 1903 (pp. liii–lv).

In the different districts of Kapaur, in the south-western part of Dutch New Guinea south of Maccluer Gulf, the hunting of Birds of Paradise is interdicted, because of the birds being considered by the Papuans as "*pamali*," *i. e.* "tabooed." The natives look upon them not as birds